

### **Amendments to the Specification:**

*Paragraph beginning on page 18, line 8*

The process of summing the symbol log likelihood ratios for the zero and one symbols and subsequently computing the bit LLR is repeated for each bit position (step 88). The resultant bit LLRs are subsequently output to the soft outer decoder (step 90).

*Paragraph beginning on page 20, line 3*

A flow diagram illustrating the second soft decision symbol to bit method of the present invention is shown in Figure 6. The log likelihood ratio for a bit is defined as expressed above in Equation 1 and for a symbol as in Equation 2 (step 110). The conditional probability of the input  $y$  given a one or a zero bit is determined as expressed in Equation 3 above (step 112).